



Michigan Association for College Admission Counseling

Support House Bill 4552

Improving Career Counseling, Skilled Trade Counseling, and College Counseling in Michigan

House Bill 4552 would require all new counselors working with students in grades 6-12 to demonstrate proficiency in career counseling (including counseling in the skilled trades) and college counseling.

Questions and Answers about HR 4552:

Is there a need for this bill? Yes! Surveys show counselors feel their training in career and college counseling is lacking. While they would like to be more effective, most feel their training is one of the reasons preventing them from helping Michigan students make better decisions about life after high school. Other surveys show students and parents feel school counselors provide little help in postsecondary planning. The results of these surveys, combined with the increasing need for greater postsecondary success to bolster Michigan's economy and workforce, support the need for more comprehensive training in career counseling and college counseling, with emphasis on counseling in the skilled trades.

How would counselors demonstrate this proficiency? There are two ways to meet this need:

- Complete an approved course (30 clock hours) in career counseling, and complete an approved course (45 clock hours) in counseling in the college selection process.
- Demonstrate proficiency in college counseling and career counseling, as defined by standards established by the Michigan College Access Network and approved by the Michigan Department of Education.

Does this bill require completion of specific courses? It does not. Counselors can take a course, or demonstrate proficiency in both college and career counseling.

If counselors choose to demonstrate proficiency by taking courses, would they have to take these classes in their graduate school training? No. The bill allows counselors to meet the requirement any time before the end of their third year of work as a school counselor. This means counselors can take the courses as part of their graduate school training, or as part of their required continuing education; it also means counselor education programs are under no obligation to offer the class. Students can also meet the requirement by demonstrating proficiency in each area.

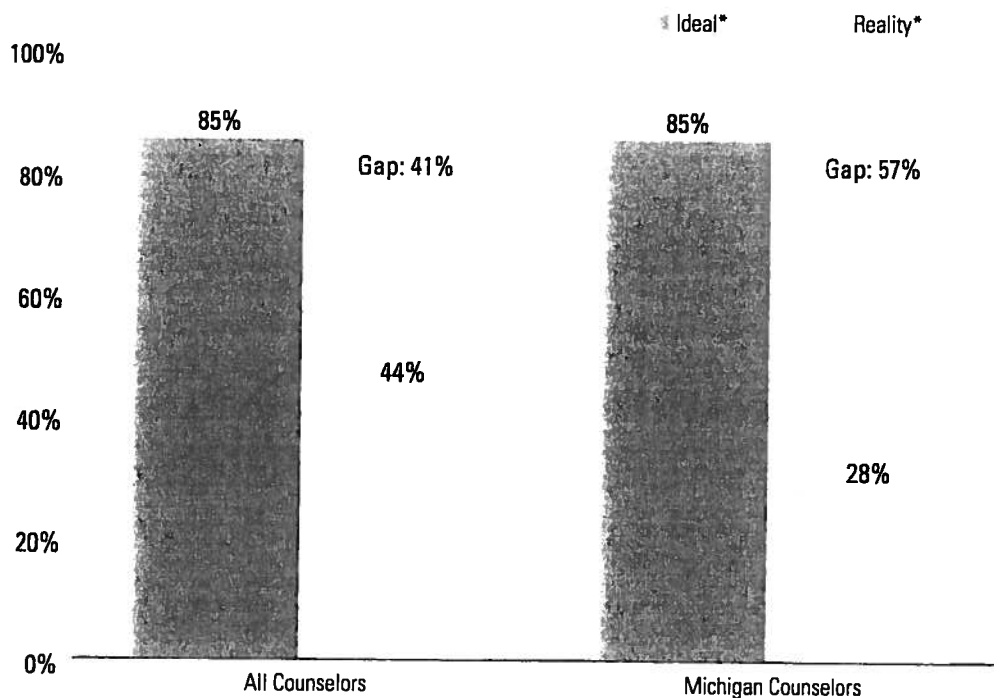
Would this lead to increased costs for the counselors? Counselors already have to complete continuing education requirements once they become a counselor. Continuing education classes in college and career counseling are already available at little or no cost; it is expected even more will become available with this requirement.

Are these college counseling classes readily available for counselors to take? These courses are offered in online, face-to-face, and hybrid formats.

What are the benefits of this training? Counselors who have completed classes in career counseling and college counseling report they are able to offer more in-depth, personalized advice to students, including advice on how to pay for the training or courses they need, and if career training or college is the right path for them to take to fulfill their goals. They also report an ability to offer this information in a more efficient manner, allowing them to serve more families.

Who can I contact for more information? Please contact MACAC's Government Relations co-chair Patrick O'Connor at poconnor@ctanbrook.edu.

Figure 1 Counselors in Michigan See Greater Gaps in Addressing Student Problems So Students Stay in School Through Graduation



*Counselors rating "To address student problems so students stay in school through graduation" as a 9 or 10 for the School Counselor's Mission in the Ideal and in Reality in Their Schools.

School Counselors in Michigan Desire Increased Training

School counselors in Michigan report that their training inadequately prepared them for their jobs, that they desire increased training and that their training rates lag behind those of their counterparts nationally. This combination may indicate the need to refine preservice and in-service training requirements for school counselors. In Michigan, proposed amendments to certification and licensure of school counselors, which increase training requirements in targeted areas (R 390.1303-1306), may better serve counselors and their students. Nearly one-fourth of counselors in Michigan report that they do not feel their training adequately prepared them for their jobs (24 percent, versus 28 percent nationally, with a mean rating in Michigan of 6.8 on a 10-point scale, where 10 means the training perfectly prepared them for their jobs). Many counselors in Michigan have received supplemental training since beginning their careers but at lower rates than counselors overall. For example, 60 percent of counselors in Michigan, compared to 68 percent nationally, report receiving training on college and career readiness (see Figure 2). Only one-third of counselors in Michigan (33 percent, compared to 43 percent nationally) report having received training on closing the achievement gap. Overall, a majority of counselors report a desire to spend more time on professional development or in-service training (56 percent of counselors in Michigan and 54 percent of counselors nationwide).



The College Board National Office for School
Counselor Advocacy (NOSCA)

School Counseling in Michigan

A College Board 2011 National
Survey of School Counselors
State Brief

**A Brief for the College Board Advocacy & Policy Center's
National Office for School Counselor Advocacy
by Civic Enterprises with Hart Research**

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